

Message Text

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ACTION ITC-01

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, GE
SUBJECT: UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION
- (USITC) REQUEST FOR DATA ON WATCHES

REFS: (A) STATE 18602, (B) 77 BERLIN 5016

1. OFFICIAL GDR STATISTICS REPORT THE PRODUCTION OF 3,942,000 WATCHES IN 1976, THE LAST YEAR FOR WHICH DATA ARE AVAILABLE. THE EMBASSY HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO OBTAIN A MORE DETAILED BREAKDOWN OF WATCH PRODUCTION DATA.

2. TWO ENTERPRISES, VEB UHRENWERK GLASHUETTE WITH 2,000 EMPLOYEES AND VEB UHRENWERK WEIMAR WITH 1,500 EMPLOYEES, MANUFACTURE CLOCKS AND WATCHES IN THE GDR AND ARE PART OF THE KOMBINAT VEB UHREN- UND MASCHINEN-KOMBINAT RUHLA. GDR TECHNICAL JOURNALS REPORT PERCENTAGE INCREASES IN AGGREGATE PRODUCTION OF CLOCKS AND WATCHES BY VEB UHREN- UND MASCHINENKOMBINAT RUHLA THAT SHOW THAT FROM 1967 TO 1976 OVERALL PRODUCTION OF CLOCKS AND WATCHES INCREASED BY 236 PERCENT. THESE DATA STATE THAT GDR DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION INCREASED BY 158 PERCENT OVER THIS PERIOD, EXPORTS TO NON-COMMUNIST COUNTRIES INCREASED BY 432 PERCENT AND
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EXPORTS TO COMMUNIST COUNTRIES ROSE BY 457 PERCENT.

3. AS REPORTED REF B, THE GDR DOES NOT PRODUCE ELECTRONIC WATCHES OR COMPONENTS. VEB UHRENWERK GLASHUETTE, HOWEVER PRODUCES CLOCKS UNDER THE TRADE NAME "PIEZOCHRON," WHICH UTILIZE ELECTRO-QUARTZ ANALOG CIRCUITS. TECHNICAL LITERATURE INDICATES THAT THERE ARE PRESENTLY TWO TYPES

OF "PIEZOCHRON" CIRCUITS. WE HAVE NO FIRM INFORMATION ON
GDR PLANS TO MOVE BEYOND MANUFACTURE OF CONVENTIONAL
WATCHES AND WATCH MOVEMENTS, BUT HAVE HEARD THE GDR IS
SEEKING TECHNOLOGY AND PLANT FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF
QUARTZ CRYSTALS. BOLEN

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Message Attributes

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